

March 21, 2014

Weekly Views

The Miami Correctional Facility Polar Bear Plunge team raised \$825 for Special Olympics Indiana. Hitting the icy cold water at Crossroads Community Church in Kokomo were Jason Kochensparker, Denver Nettifee, Douglas Nelson, Craig Stoll and Jake Kieninger. (photo below)

Rockville Correctional Facility staff answered a call from the community by raising \$120 for a Rockville High School student who has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. Supervisors from the facility's J-Bracket volunteered to take a pie in the face to help raise the funds. The event was the brainchild of Officers Michelle Boetjer and Amanda Burleson, and staff were eager to take part to support this cause. (photo left)



Recreation Coordinator Lisa Ash announced that the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) and Pendleton Art Society (PAS) are working together to enhance the Arts and Crafts program for offenders at Pendleton. Five volunteers with PAS will be coming to the facility to conduct classes in various mediums from basket weaving to water colors. Additionally, PAS has extended an invitation to all PCF offenders to have their art work displayed in the PAS Gallery Show that opens April 4 in Pendleton, IN. By June, PAS hopes to have enough participation to do an entire Gallery Show of offender art work. "This is a unique and beneficial way to merge the facility and the community it inhabits", expressed Mrs. Ash. "The possibilities for change are exponential for our population and we are quite excited

about the future of this collaboration."

Susie Mack, mother of slain Indiana college student Jimmy Mack, was the latest speaker in the Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) Reformatory Residential Reentry Program's (RRRP) Victims Impact Series presentations. Ms. Mack (pictured right) recounted the days leading up to her son's murder, the struggles both she and her family suffered following his death and the healing power of forgiveness. The Victim's Impact Series is part of the RRRP's curriculum, which allows residents to see the gravity of their crimes and the lasting impact made on their victims. Next week, an IMPD Officer will talk about the violent crime committed against him when he was a young officer. IREF and IDOC staff are invited to attend on Wednesday evenings at 5:00.



The offender PLUS program at the Indiana State Prison donated the proceeds from its Free-Throws for Muscular Dystrophy event to the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). The event raised over \$600 for Muscular Dystrophy! During the event, each PLUS participant shot ten free-throws. The money was raised through sponsorships from offenders, staff and facility volunteers obtained by the participants for each made free-throw.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) is off to a fast start raising money for the March of Dimes! Wabash Valley March of Dimes Division Director Nikki Simpson was presented with a \$500 check during the staff re-call meeting thanks to the facility Fatherhood and PLUS programs. (picture left) The 2014 March for Babies is set for April 26 in Terre Haute with WVCF set to field a strong team of fundraisers. Simpson marches to Wabash every year to drum up support and awareness about premature birth. She said the March of Dimes is inspired by all babies, those born healthy and those who need our help to survive and thrive!

At Westville Correctional Facility's Quarterly Awards Assembly, the following staff were recognized for their outstanding contributions: Correctional Officer Richard Escobedo, Sergeant Kurt Sizemore, Supervisor Sleuth Valentin Covarrubias, Payroll Accountant Jason Haynes, Classification Supervisor Mark Newkirk, and Contract Employee Vicky Buzalski, RN. Grace College instructors Adam Brown, Bill Frazier, and Dave McLiver were named Ambassadors of the Quarter for assisting a citizen who slid off the road in front of them into a ten foot ditch while they were on the way to work.

Seven staff from IDOC's Central Office Fiscal Division attended the weekly Culinary Art's luncheon at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP). Every Wednesday, the Culinary Arts class, taught by Marcella McMaster, presents a luncheon for IWP employees and guests for a nominal fee. Compliments to Ms. McMaster and her students on a job well done!

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) celebrated Black History Month with three diverse programs. During February, a seminar on Black History was conducted by Islamic Chaplain Aleem, "Islam in the African American Community", and a concert was performed by "Heart on Fire" from the House of Prayer in Bloomington. CIF continued the Black History programs into March with a service and concert by Faith Tabernacle Church in Anderson.

